

National Canners Association

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Information
Letter



For N. C. A.
Members

Membership Letter No. 91.

November 22, 1924.

Freight Classification for Foods Packed in Glass and in Metal.
Canned Food Consumption in Farm Homes.
Sixty Thousand Banks for Canned Foods Luncheon Guests.
Consideration of Child Labor Amendment.
National Conference on Wood Waste Prevention.
International Fisheries Commission.
Classification of Personal Service Corporations.
Canned Milk in Mexico.
Ruling on Unfair Competition.

Freight Classification for Foods Packed in Glass and in Metal.

In an order modifying an earlier ruling on the ratings of shipments of foods in glass, the Interstate Commerce Commission has defined the relationship to exist hereafter between the ratings for shipments in glass and those for shipments in metal. The order prescribes, in effect, that the official classification ratings on various food products in glass shall not be higher than the first numbered class above the ratings applicable to the same articles when in metal cans. Upon the question of whether or not compliance with this finding should be effected entirely by reductions in the ratings on shipments in glass, the Commission expresses no opinion.

The Commission announced this ruling in modifying its orders in the complaints of the Indian Packing Corporation, the National Food Packers Traffic Association, National Preserves and Fruit Products Association, H. J. Heinz Company, Gorton-Pew Fisheries Company, Alart & McGuire Company, the American Spice Trade Association, and the Glass Container Association of America.

The Commission declined to approve reparation damages and indicated that as items carrying ratings on shipments in glass also include shipments in earthenware, it is assumed that this grouping will be continued. The Commission's order becomes effective on or before January 30, 1925.

The findings of the Commission as summarized in its report are:

"Official classification ratings on peanut butter; butter, sugar or corn syrup and sugar combined; comb or strained honey; honey and sugar mixtures; olive oil; ground spices; and vinegar, in glass, packed in barrels or boxes; in less than carloads, found not unreasonable.

"Official classification ratings on various other food products, in glass, packed in barrels or boxes, in less than carloads, found unreasonable to the extent that they are higher than the first numbered

Me

by
19
si
no
fr
su
ou
ho

la

Ca
Ca
Ca
Ca
Ca
Ca
OL
Pi
CH
Ja

"C
no
in

qu
an

Fr
co
Va
me

me
P
I
M
a
u
S
co

class above the less-than-carload ratings applicable to the same articles when in metal cans, packed in barrels or boxes."

Canned Food Consumption in Farm Homes.

Statistics on the use of canned foods by workingmen's families, collected by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, were given in Membership Letter 66 (May 31, 1924). These figures relate to town and city population, as all of the families resided in industrial communities. Comparable statistics on the rural population have not been collected by government agencies, but some interesting data are available from a survey conducted by the "Dakota Farmer" and "Northwest Farmstead", the results of which have been published in the "Merchants Magazine". These papers sent out questionnaires to 2,000 farm women, asking for information on foods and household supplies used on farms in the Northwest.

The total number of questionnaires returned was 630. The information relating to canned foods may be summarized as follows:

	Percent reporting use	Percent canning own supplies	Percent buying commercial product	Percent both canning and buying
Canned fruit.....	84.6	77.3	21.	1.7
Canned vegetables.....	82.9	77.2	21.1	1.7
Canned pork and beans..	41.9	(a) 52.7	47.3	---
Canned meats.....	75.9	92.5	7.1	.4
Canned soups.....	45.1	81.3	18.7	---
Catsup.....	58.57	62.06	37.94	---
Olives.....	18.24	----	----	---
Pickles.....	90.16	87.85	12.15	---
Chili sauce.....	33.89	87.79	12.21	---
Jams and jellies.....	80.32	83.6	16.4	---

(a) Compiler comments that families may mean home grown but not canned.

As regards canned fruit, the following statement is made by the compiler: "Our opinion is that all housekeepers use canned fruit to some extent, and those not replying evidently meant that they did not purchase canned fruit, which would increase the number of home canners in proportion to the ones who purchase".

Not all of those reporting on the use of canned foods gave data on the quantities consumed. The following summarizes what information was furnished on amounts used:

Fruits - Home canned, 85 families used average of 10.4 quarts per family per month; commercially canned, 46 families used average of 6.8 cans per family per month.

Vegetables - Home canned, 57 families used average of 9.4 quarts per family per month; commercially canned, 45 families used average of 7.2 cans per family per month.

Pork and beans - Commercially canned, 48 families used average of 2.8 cans per family per month.

Meats - Home canned, 19 families used average of 25.1 pounds, and 44 other families an average of 8.4 pounds per family per month; commercially canned, 10 families used average of 2 cans per family per month.

Soups - Home canned, 12 families used average of 4.2 quarts per family per month; commercially canned, 17 families used average of 5 cans per family per month.

M

O
P
C
J
m

h
f
P

b
c
e
W

3
M
C
M
P
I
V
t
C
s
C

I
t
r
C
r
t
C
C
r

r
C
C
C
C

Olives - Thirty families used an average of .71 pint per family per month.
Pickles - Ninety-nine families used average of 3.9 quarts per family per month.
Catsup - Sixty-three families used average of 2.12 pints per family per month.
Chili sauce - Eighteen families used average of 1.82 quarts per family per month.
Jams and Jellies - Sixty-nine families used average of 2.9 quarts per family per month.

While the foregoing figures relate to a comparatively small number of homes, and there is no information respecting the size and circumstances of the families, they are interesting as showing that commercially canned foods find a place in farm homes.

Sixty Thousand Banks for Canned Foods Luncheon Guests.

Through the courtesy of the American Can Company, sixty thousand tin-can banks were furnished as souvenirs to be distributed to guests at canned foods luncheons during Canned Foods Week. The banks were given only to guests at such affairs, and the figures afford some idea of the popularity of this feature of Canned Foods Week programs.

Consideration of Child Labor Amendment.

Forty state legislatures will convene in January, and 38 of these, it is stated, will have up for consideration the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution. The legislatures to meet are those of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Of the four states that thus far have acted upon the proposed amendment, Arkansas has ratified, while Georgia, Louisiana and North Carolina have refused ratification. Massachusetts, by a popular advisory referendum, took adverse action; this, however, is not mandatory on the legislature.

National Conference on Wood Waste Prevention.

At the invitation of the Secretary of Agriculture a representative of the National Cannery Association attended the National Conference on Wood Waste Prevention held in Washington this week. The present annual rate of drain in the timber resources of the country is 22.4 billion cubic feet. The increment in new wood growth is six billion cubic feet per year. It is estimated that a saving of two-ninths of the present drain on the forests could be accomplished if the best practice and knowledge were applied to manufacturing processes. Under present conditions the end of three centuries of abundance in timber resources is plainly in sight. The purpose of the conference is to develop if possible a practical program of wood waste prevention in industry and more efficient utilization of our remaining national forest resources.

International Fisheries Commission.

Henry O'Malley, U. S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, and Miller Freeman, of Seattle, publisher of the Pacific Fisherman, have been appointed by President Coolidge to represent the United States on the International Fisheries Commission provided for under the convention for the preservation of the halibut fisheries of the Northern Pacific Ocean concluded between the United States and Great Britain in 1923.

M

w
o
i
a

o
S
h

o
a
P
a

Classification of Personal Service Corporations.

The United States Board of Tax Appeals has ruled that a corporation in which invested capital is a material income-producing factor, and more than 50 per cent of whose gross income consists of gains, profits or income derived from trading as a principal, is not entitled to classification as a personal service corporation under the provisions of Section 200 of the Revenue Act of 1918.

Canned Milk in Mexico.

Five million pounds of condensed evaporated and powdered milk, valued at over half a million dollars, were bought by Mexico in 1923, of which the United States furnished 90 per cent. Purchases from the United States during the first half of 1924 amounted to about 2,300,000 pounds, valued at \$256,000.

Ruling on Unfair Competition.

The Federal Trade Commission, in a decision reached after investigation of a complaint against a New York firm, has ruled that use of the words "import" and "imported" in connection with the sale of goods or merchandise which is not imported into the United States is an unfair method of competition, and has issued an appropriate order to the firm to cease use of the words in a misleading manner.

x x x x x x x